

AUG 02 2005

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

DATE: August 2, 2005

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U.S. Serial No. 09/896,032

RE: HUBR 1067.3 DIV

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MESSAGE:

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37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being FACSIMILED to Examiner Timothy BROWN at 571-273-0773 and 571-273-8300 at the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

8/2/05 Fani Malikouzakis

Date Name: Fani Malikouzakis

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Christoph SEIDEL et al.
 Serial No : 09/896,032
 Filed : June 29, 2001
 For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV SEROCONVERSION
 Art Unit : 1648
 Examiner : Timothy M. BROWN

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER

SIR:

Transmitted herewith is information which is relevant to the current rejection of the patent application under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In the grandparent of the subject application, co-inventor Ursula-Henrike Wienhues-Thelen submitted a declaration and this is resubmitted here.

In example 1 of the declaration, cysteine residues were modified by iodoacetate, and tested for immunogenicity. Note the modified molecules were more immunogenic.

In example 2, cysteine was replaced by serine. The serine substituted molecules were more active immunologically.

In example 3, it is shown that when the cysteine residues of the antigen are modified, there are fewer releasable sulphydryl residues.

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Were a prima facie case of lack of enablement established and this is not believed to be the case - these data are believed sufficient to overcome it.

Allowance of the application is believed proper and is urged.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

By



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